

Structures Associated with the Exploits of the Young People of Korea

There are many structures named after the word *youth* in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In early 1970 a railway project connecting the eastern and western parts of the DPRK was launched according to the initiative of President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994).

The amount of work was enormous: building 88km of roadbed, removing 3 130 000m³ of earth, building 11 tunnels and 42 bridges, installing over 260 structures, setting up 9 railway stations, laying 479km of communication cables and laying 83km of railway. The project period was supposed to be at least six years.

However, the young builders accomplished 50% of the entire project within seven months.

They conquered the rugged Masikryong Mountains whose peaks rise more than 1 000 metres above sea level on average, blasting 300 000m³ and 600 000m³ of earth at a time.

More than 9 340 technical innovation plans and advanced work methods were conceived and introduced, saving labour and increasing the speed of the project by 2-3 times. The project was finished in a little over one year, not six years.

In appreciation of the exploits of the young builders, Kim Il Sung named the new railway Ichon Youth Railway Line, and sent a congratulatory message to them.

During the project 50 young people were awarded citations of President Kim Il Sung, and 13 Labour Heroes and many recipients of state decorations were produced.

The building of a road between Pyongyang and Nampho began in November 1998.

The days were trying; the allied imperialist forces were attempting to stifle the socialist DPRK and natural disasters hit the country for several consecutive years.

Tens of thousands of young people from all over the country volunteered for the project true to the far-reaching plan of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As they lacked machinery, they built the roadbed with sledge hammers and gads.

During the nearly 700 days of the project, the builders piled up 14 000 000m³ of earth, built many bridges and other structures, paved several million square metres of road and created a 30m-wide green area on both sides of the road, planting 1 330 000 trees of 60 species. They planted turf on 800 000m² of ground, created 75 000m² of flowerbed, improved 33 places of rivers and streams, planted grape vines in an area of 163 636m², and set up over 60 new villages by building 3 600 houses, all along the road.

In October 2000, in order to convey the exploits of the young people, the then Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK issued a decree on naming the road as the Youth Hero Road.

Building the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station in the northern part of Korea was a nature-harnessing project unprecedented in terms of the amount of workload, and it was to be conducted under the most difficult conditions in the history of building hydropower stations in the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the construction site in April 2015, illustrating the detailed ways to step up the project and giving the task to complete it by the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, which was founded on October 10, 1945.

The young people worked day and night to live up to his trust; when they were short of means of transport, they transported building materials with bags and sledges, and when machinery were not available, they built dams and dug waterway tunnels inch by inch breaking rocks with sledge hammers and gads.

Thus, they managed to carry out within some 120 days the amount of work equal to what they had done in the previous 10 years.

On his visit to the construction site in September 2015 before the

commissioning of the power station, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the exploits of the young people, and suggested naming it the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

A new street is under construction in the Sopho area, the northern gateway to Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK.

It is an important project to build a street of more than 4 000 flats in the area, which is being carried out in addition to the project to construct 10 000 flats in the city in 2023 according to the plan of building 50 000 flats in the city, set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the project in February this year, Kim Jong Un said: Our Party has decided to arrange a new theatre of activity, a grand theatre for our young people, where they can fully display their burning patriotic zeal once again in the course of giving a spur to the comprehensive development of socialist construction; it has decided to entrust the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade with the whole of the project.

Miracles and innovations are being created each day in the construction site by many young people who have volunteered from all parts of the country.



Dam of Unit 1 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station
built by young people



Young people at the ground-breaking ceremony of a
new street project in the Sopho area in 2023